

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (cancelled without prejudice).

6. (previously added) An apparatus for disabling a firearm, the firearm including a hammer having a hammer strut extending therefrom, the hammer movable between a cocked position and an uncocked position, a trigger assembly for releasing the hammer from the cocked position upon actuation of the trigger assembly, and a spring positioned within a well of a spring housing, the spring being tensioned upon cocking of the hammer to provide energy to the hammer, the apparatus comprising:

a spring cap having a head portion positioned on the spring, the hammer strut having an end abutting said head portion of said spring cap;

a body received within a bore in the spring housing, and if the hammer is in the uncocked position said body is movable from a first position to a second position wherein said body blocks movement of said head portion of said spring cap.

7. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said head portion includes:

a cup portion, said cup portion receiving the end of the hammer strut;

a shoulder abutting said spring opposite said cup portion; and

a groove between said cup portion and said shoulder.

8. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said body is cylindrical and has a first end, an opposite second end and a length extending therebetween.

9. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said second end is positioned adjacent said spring cap when said body is in said first position.

10. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said body is received within said groove of said spring cap when said body is in said second position and the hammer is in the uncocked position.

11. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein at least a portion of said body is threaded and rotatably received within said bore for movement from said first position to said second position.

12. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said body is cylindrical and has a first end, an opposite second end and a length extending therebetween.

13. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said first end of said body includes means for engaging a tool for moving said body between said first and second positions.

14. (previously added) An apparatus for firing a cartridge, comprising:
a firearm including a hammer movable between a cocked position and an uncocked position;

a trigger assembly connected with said hammer for releasing said hammer from the cocked position upon actuation of said trigger assembly;

a hammer spring assembly connected with said hammer, said hammer spring assembly including a spring tensioned upon cocking of said hammer to thereafter cause said hammer to fire the cartridge upon actuation of said trigger assembly; and

a disablement mechanism positionable with respect to said hammer spring assembly to prevent said hammer from being cocked if in the uncocked position and from being trigger-actuated if in the cocked position.

15. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said hammer spring assembly includes:

a hammer strut pivotally connected at one end with said hammer and having a length extending to an opposite end; and

a spring cap having a head portion positioned on said spring, the opposite end of said hammer strut abutting said spring cap.

16. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said disablement mechanism is positionable to contact said spring cap to prevent said hammer from being cocked or actuated from the cocked position to fire the cartridge.

17. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said head portion includes a top surface abutting said opposite end of said hammer strut, an opposite shoulder abutting said spring, and a groove between said top surface and said shoulder.

18. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said disablement mechanism is positionable within said groove to contact said spring cap when said hammer is in the uncocked position and said disablement mechanism is positionable to contact said top surface of said spring cap when said hammer in the said cocked position.

19. (previously added) An apparatus for disabling a firearm, said firearm including a hammer movable between a cocked position and an uncocked position, a trigger assembly connected with the hammer for releasing the hammer from the cocked position upon actuation of the trigger assembly, and a spring positioned within a well of a spring housing, the spring being tensioned upon cocking of the hammer to provide energy to the hammer upon actuation of the trigger assembly, the apparatus comprising:

a hammer strut connected at one end with the hammer and having a length extending to an opposite end;

a spring cap having a head portion positioned on the spring, the opposite end of said hammer strut abutting said spring cap;

a disablement mechanism received within a bore in the spring housing, said disablement mechanism movable from a first position where the firearm is enabled to a second position wherein said disablement mechanism contacts said head portion of said spring cap where the firearm is disabled.

20. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said head portion includes a top surface abutting the opposite end of said hammer strut, an opposite shoulder abutting said spring, and a groove between said top surface and said shoulder.

21. (previously added) A method for retrofitting a firearm, comprising:

providing a firearm having a hammer movable between a cocked position and an uncocked position, and a hammer spring assembly connected with the hammer, the hammer spring assembly including a spring and a first spring cap positioned on the spring within a well of a first spring housing;

disassembling the hammer spring assembly from the firearm;

providing a second spring housing having a well and a bore formed through the housing communicating with the well;

providing a disablement mechanism positionable within the bore;

providing a second spring cap having a head portion configured for contact with the disablement mechanism to disable the firearm when the hammer is in either the cocked position or the uncocked position;

reassembling the firearm with the second spring cap positioned within the second spring housing.

22. (previously added) An apparatus for disabling a firearm, the firearm having a hammer movable between a cocked position and an uncocked position, and a spring positioned within a well of a spring housing, the spring being tensioned when the hammer is cocked, the apparatus comprising:

a spring cap having a head portion positioned on the spring, the hammer being connected with said spring cap; and

a body received within a bore formed in the spring housing, said body having a first end and an opposite second end and a length extending therebetween, said body being movable from a first position where the firearm is enabled to a second position wherein contact between said body and said head portion of said spring cap disables the firearm.